

HOUSE BILL 3742

By Winningham

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 4, Part 9, relative to Tennessee HOPE
foster child tuition grants.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-902, is amended by adding the following as new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

() "Cost of attendance" means the combined cost of tuition, mandatory fees, room and board, books and other educational expenses as determined by the financial aid office of the eligible postsecondary institution; and

() "Gift aid" means scholarships and grants from any source that do not require repayment, including funds provided through the federal Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 and other similar programs. Student loans and work-study awards shall not be considered gift aid;

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933, is amended by deleting subsection (f) in its entirety and substituting instead the following:

(f) The Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant shall be the cost of attendance less any gift aid, with the total HOPE foster child tuition grant amount not to exceed the cost of tuition and mandatory fees at the eligible postsecondary institution attended. Additionally, at an eligible independent postsecondary institution, the Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant shall not exceed the statewide average public tuition and mandatory fee rate for the type of institution (two-year or four-year) attended.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933, is further amended by deleting subsection (e) in its entirety.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-4-933, is further amended by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

(c) The student shall present TSAC with official certification from the department of children's services that the student meets the eligibility requirements of subsection (b) for the tuition grant.

SECTION 5. The provisions of this act are declared to be remedial in nature and to that end shall apply to all Tennessee HOPE foster child tuition grant awards made on or after July 1, 2006.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.